

**The
American**

**Heritage
Dictionary**

**BASED ON THE NEW
SECOND COLLEGE EDITION**



sure (shōōr) *adj.* **suror, surest.** 1. Incapable of being doubted; certain. 2. Steady; firm: a *sure grip*. 3. Confident: *sure of victory*. 4. a. Bound to happen; inevitable. b. Destined; bound. 5. Reliable: a *sure friend*. —*idioms.* for *sure*. Certainly; without a doubt. to be *sure*. Certainly; indeed. [*< Lat. securus, safe.*] —*sureness* *n.*

sure-fire (shōōr'fir) *adj.* **Informal.** Bound to be successful.

sure-footed (shōōr'fōōt'id) *adj.* Not liable to stumble.

sure-ly (shōōr'lē) *adv.* 1. Certainly; without doubt. 2. With confidence or assurance.

sure-ty (shōōr'tē) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. The condition of being sure. 2. Something beyond doubt; certainty. 3. A guarantee or security. 4. One who has contracted to be responsible for another.

surf (sūrf) *n.* The offshore waters or waves between the shoreline and the outermost boundaries of the breakers. —*v.* To engage in surfing. [*Orig. unknown.*] —*surfer* *n.*

surface (sūrf'is) *n.* 1. The outer or topmost boundary of an object. 2. A superficial or outward appearance. —*adj.* 1. Of or on a surface. 2. Superficial. —*v.* — *surfaced, -facing.* 1. To form the surface of. 2. To rise or come to the surface. [*Fr.*]

surf-board (sūrf'bōrd', -bōrd') *n.* A narrow, somewhat rounded board used for surfing.

surfeit (sūrf'it) *v.* To feed or supply to excess; satiate. —*n.* 1. Overindulgence in food or drink. 2. The disgust caused by such overindulgence. 3. An excessive amount. [*< OFr. surfaire, to overdo.*]

surfing (sūrf'ing) *n.* The sport of riding the crests of waves into shore, esp. on a surfboard.

surge (sūrg) *v.* **surged, surging.** 1. To move in a billowing or swelling manner. 2. To increase suddenly. —*n.* 1. A billowing or swelling motion like that of great waves. 2. A sudden onrush: a *surge of joy*. [*< Lat. surgere, to rise.*]

surgeon (sūrg'jōn) *n.* A physician specializing in surgery.

surgery (sūrg'jō-rē) *n., pl. -ies.* 1. The medical diagnosis and treatment of injury, deformity, and disease by the cutting and removal or repair of bodily parts. 2. A surgical operating room or laboratory. 3. The skill or work of a surgeon. [*< Gk. kheirurgo, working by hand.*] —*surgi-cal* *adj.* —*surgi-cal-ly* *adv.*

surly (sūrl'ē) *adj.* -lier, -iest. Sullenly rude and bad-tempered; gruff. [*Obs. sirly, masterful < sir.*] —*surly-ness* *n.*

surmise (sūrm'iz) *v.* -mised, -mis-ing. To infer with little evidence; guess. —*n.* An idea or opinion based upon little evidence; conjecture. [*< Lat. supermittere, to throw on.*]

surmount (sūrmount') *v.* 1. To overcome; conquer. 2. To ascend and cross to the other side of. 3. To be above or on top of. —*surmount-able* *adj.*

sur-name (sūrnām') *n.* One's last or family name as distinguished from a given name.

surpass (sūrpās') *v.* 1. To go beyond the limit of; transcend. 2. To be or go beyond; exceed.

Syns: surpass, exceed, excel, outdo, outshine, outstrip, pass, top, transcend *v.*

surpass-ing (sūrpās'ing) *adj.* Exceptional; superlative. —*surpass-ing-ly* *adv.*

surplice (sūrp'lis) *n.* A loose-fitting white gown worn over a cassock by some clergymen. [*< Med. Lat. superpellicium.*]

surplus (sūrp'plis) *n.* An amount or quantity in excess of what is needed. —*adj.* Being a surplus. [*< Med. Lat. superplus.*]

surprise (sūrp'riz) *v.* -prised, -pris-ing. 1. To encounter suddenly or unexpectedly. 2. To attack or capture suddenly and without warning. 3. To astonish by the unexpected. —*n.* 1. The act of surprising. 2. A feeling of amazement or wonder. 3. Something that surprises. [*< OFr. surprendre, to overcome.*] —*surpris'er* *n.* —*surpris-ing* *adj.* —*surpris-ing-ly* *adv.*

surreal-ism (sū-rē'a-liz'm) *n.* A 20th-cent. literary and artistic movement that attempts to express the workings of the subconscious by fantastic imagery and incongruous juxtaposition of subject matter. —*surreal* *adj.* —*surreal-ist* *n.* —*surreal-ist-ic-ally* *adv.*

surrender (sū-rēn'dar) *v.* 1. To relinquish possession or control of to another because of demand or force. 2. To give (oneself) up, as to an emotion: *surrendered himself to grief*. 3. To give oneself up to another. —*n.* The act of surrendering. [*< OFr. rendre.*]

surreptitious (sūrap'it'ish'as) *adj.* Secret and stealthy. [*< Lat. surripere, to take away secretly.*] —*surreptitious-ly* *adv.* —*surreptitious-ness* *n.*

surray (sūr'ē, sūr'ē) *n., pl. -reys.* A horse-drawn four-wheeled vehicle having two seats. [*< Surrey, England.*]

surrogate (sūr'ō-git, -gāt', sūr'-) *n.* 1. A substitute. 2. A judge in some U.S. states having jurisdiction over the settlement of estates. [*< Lat. surrogare, to substitute.*]

surround (sū-round') *v.* 1. To extend on all sides of simultaneously; encircle. 2. To enclose or confine on all sides. [*< LLat. superundare, to inundate.*]

Syns: surround, circle, compass, encircle, enclose, gird, ring *v.*

surround-ings (sū-round'ingz) *pl.n.* The external circumstances of something.

sur-tax (sūrtāks') *n.* 1. An additional tax. 2. A graduated income tax added to the normal income tax.

surveillance (sūrvā'lāns) *n.* Close observation of a person or group, esp. of one under suspicion. [*< Fr. surveiller, to watch over.*]

survey (sūrvā', sūrvā') *v.* 1. To examine or look over comprehensively. 2. To determine the boundaries, area, or elevations of part of the earth's surface by means of measuring angles and distances. —*n.* (sūrvā'). 1. A detailed inspection or investigation. 2. A comprehensive view. 3. a. The process of surveying land. b. A plan or map of surveyed land. [*< Med. Lat. supervidēre, to look over.*] —*survey-or* *n.*

survey-ing (sūrvā'ing) *n.* The measurement of dimensional relationships, as of horizontal distances, elevations, directions, and angles, on the earth's surface.

survive (sar-viv') *v.* -vived, -viv-ing. 1. To remain alive or in existence; endure. 2. To live longer than; outlive. [*< LLat. supervivere.*] —*surviv'al* *n.* —*surviv-or* *n.*

sus-cep-tible (sū-sēp'ti-bəl) *adj.* 1. Easily influenced or affected. 2. Liable; subject: *susceptible to colds*. 3. Capable of accepting or permitting: *susceptible of proof*. [*< Lat. suscepius, p.p. of suscipere, to receive.*] —*sus-cep-ti-bil-ity* *n.* —*sus-cep-ti-bly* *adv.*

sus-pect (sū-spēkt') *v.* 1. To regard as probable; surmise. 2. To distrust or doubt: *suspected their motives*. 3. To think guilty without proof. —*n.* (sūspēkt'). One who is suspected, esp. of having committed a crime. —*adj.* (sūspēkt'). Open to or viewed with suspicion. [*< Lat. suspicere, to watch.*]

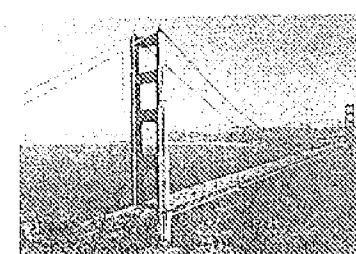
sus-pend (sū-spēnd') *v.* 1. To bar for a period from a privilege, office, or position. 2. To cause to stop for a period; interrupt. 3. a. To hold in abeyance; defer: *suspend judgment*. b. To render ineffective temporarily: *suspend parking regulations*. 4. To hang so as to allow free movement. 5. To support or keep from falling without apparent attachment. [*< Lat. suspendere, to hang up.*]

sus-pend-ers (sū-spēnd'orz) *pl.n.* A pair of straps worn over the shoulders to support trousers or a skirt.

sus-pense (sū-spēns') *n.* 1. The condition or quality of being undecided. 2. Anxiety or apprehension resulting from uncertainty. [*< Lat. suspensus, p.p. of suspendere, to hang up.*] —*sus-pense-ful* *adj.*

sus-pen-sion (sū-spēn'shān) *n.* 1. The act of suspending or condition of being suspended, esp.: a. A temporary deferment. b. A postponement of judgment or decision. 2. A device from which a mechanical part is suspended. 3. The system of springs and other devices that insulates the chassis of a vehicle from shocks. 4. *Chem.* A relatively coarse, noncolloidal dispersion of solid particles in a liquid.

suspension bridge *n.* A bridge having the roadway suspended from cables that are usu. supported by towers.



suspension bridge
The Golden Gate Bridge

sus-pi-cion (sū-spish'ān) *n.* 1. The act of suspecting the existence of something, esp. of something wrong, with little evidence or proof. 2. A faint trace; hint. [*< Lat. suspicere, to watch.*]

sus-pi-cious (sū-spish'ōs) *adj.* 1. Arousing or apt to arouse suspicion. 2. Tending to suspect; distrustful. 3. Expressing suspicion. —*sus-pi-cious-ly* *adv.*

sus-tain (sū-siān') *v.* 1. To keep in existence or effect; maintain. 2. To supply with neces-

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